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BOROUGH OF COWBRIDGE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

~~1939~~ -1940

B O R O U G H O F C O W B R I D G E

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1940 - ~~1941~~

July 1941.

To: The Chairman and Members of)
the Public Health Committee)
of the Borough of Cowbridge.)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration, my Annual Report for the year 1940 which I have drawn up on the lines indicated in Circular 2067 (Wales) of the Welsh Board of Health.

S E C T I O N. A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	84.
Estimated population (Registrar General)	1150.
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book.	291.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£22.
Rateable Value of District	£5382.

The Borough of Cowbridge is a small Market Town surrounded by a large agricultural area. As there are no industries situated within the District, most of the men obtain employment outside the area. During the year under review, employment has been available at the R.A.F.Station, St Athan, the Air base at Llandow (both in the area of Cowbridge Rural District Council) the Arsenal at Waterton (in Penybont Rural Area) and at the Land Settlement site at Penlline.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:

The following statistics furnished by the Registrar General relate to the net births and deaths within the Borough, after correction of inward and outward transfers :-

B O R O U G H O F C O W B R I D G E

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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To: The Chairman and Members of)
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of the Borough of Cowbridge.)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1940 which I have drawn up on the lines indicated in Circular 2057 (Wales) of the Welsh Board of Health.

S E C T I O N A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	84.
Estimated population (Registrar General)	1170.
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book.	240.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£8.
Rateable Value of District	£2888.

The Borough of Cowbridge is a small Market town surrounded by a large agricultural area. As there are no industries situated within the District, most of the non-obtain employment outside the area. During the year under review, employment has been available at the R.A.F. Station, St Athan. The Air Base at Llandow (both in the area of Cowbridge Rural District Council) the Ateneal at Llantwit (in Pontypridd Rural Area) and at the Naval Establishment at Penarth.

INFERENCE FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:

The following statistics furnished by the Registrar General relate to the net births and deaths within the Borough, after correction of inward and outward transfers :-

		Total.	Male.	Female.	Crude Birth Rate.
Live Births	Legitimate.	18	12	6	15.7.
	Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Corrected Birth rate for Cowbridge Borough.					12.71
Birth Rate for England and Wales					14.6
Birth Rate for Administrative County of Glamorgan.					16.3.
Birth Rate for Urban Districts in Glamorgan.					16.3.

				Crude Death Rate
Deaths	15	8	7	13.0.
Corrected death rate Cowbridge Borough				10.5.
Death Rate for England and Wales				14.3.
Death Rate for Administrative County of Glamorgan				13.4.
Death Rate for Urban Districts in Glamorgan				13.9.

The following table shows the number of deaths during the year under various causes :-

Cause of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Heart Disease.	4.	2.	6.
Cancer	-	1.	1.
Circulatory Disease	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	1.	1.
Influenza.	1.	-	1.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-
Road Traffic Accidents	1.	-	1.
Intracian. Vasc. Lesions	2.	1.	3.
Ill Defined	-	2.	2.
TOTALS.	8.	7.	15.

S E C T I O N. B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES WITHIN THE AREA

The following are the Public Health Officers serving under the Local Authority :-

Medical Officer of Health (part time) :-
Dr D.J.Evans, M.R.C.S. (Eng.) L.R.C.P. (London) M.O.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor (full time):-
Clifford H.Symmonds, A.R.San.I.,M.S.I.A.
Meat and Food Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

Health Visitor (part time)
Owing to the death of Nurse Rymer during the year, no arrangements have been made for Health Visiting within the Borough.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

As there are no laboratory facilities within the District, arrangements have been made for the examination of Pathological and Bacteriological specimens at the Cardiff and

	Total.	Male.	Female.	Crude Birth Rate.
Live Births Legitimate.	18	12	6	18.7.
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Corrected Birth rate for Cowbridge Borough.				18.71
Birth Rate for England and Wales				14.6
Birth Rate for Administrative County of Glamorgan.				16.5.
Birth Rate for Urban Districts in Glamorgan.				16.5.

Crude Death Rate

Deaths	15	8	7	15.0.
Corrected death rate Cowbridge Borough				10.5.
Death Rate for England and Wales				14.3.
Death Rate for Administrative County of Glamorgan				13.4.
Death Rate for Urban Districts in Glamorgan				13.9.

The following table shows the number of deaths during the year under various causes :-

Cause of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Enteric Fever.	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-
Diphtheria.	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	-	-	-
Influenza.	4.	2.	6.
Tuberculosis	-	1.	1.
Cancer	-	-	-
Rheumatism	-	-	-
Cerebral Hemorrhage	-	1.	1.
Heart Disease	1.	-	1.
Bronchitis	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-
Other Tuberculosis	-	-	-
Other Infectious Diseases	1.	-	1.
Suicide	1.	-	1.
Other Violence	2.	1.	3.
All Other Causes	-	2.	2.
TOTALS.	8.	7.	15.

S U R V E Y O R . R.

GENERAL INSPECTION OF RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT AREA

The following are the Public Health Officers serving under the Local Authority :-

Medical Officer of Health (part time) :-
Mr. E.J.Swayne, M.R.C.S. (Eng.) L.R.C.P. (London) D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor (full time)-
Mr. Thos. E.Symonds, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Diploma and Food Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

Medical Officer (part time)
Owing to the death of Dr. Evans during the year no Vaccinations have been made the Health Visiting was borne by the Sanitary Inspector.

COMMUNITY NURSING.

County Public Health Laboratory, The Parade, Cardiff.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES :-

(a) For Infectious Cases :-
The Cowbridge Borough Council contribute towards the Bridgend Isolation Hospital, and the Infectious Disease Ambulance of this Hospital is available, when necessary, for the removal of Infectious Cases from the district.

(b) For Non-Infectious Cases :-
No Ambulance is available within the District for Non-Infectious and Accident Cases. Whenever an Ambulance is required for these cases, arrangements are made with the St John's Ambulance.

NURSING IN THE HOME

This service has now been discontinued.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS :-

There are no Hospitals situated within the Borough.

Fever. The Local Authority contribute towards the Bridgend Isolation Hospital where cases of Infectious Disease occurs in the area requiring Hospital treatment.

Smallpox The Local Authority also contributes towards the Bridgend Smallpox Hospital.

General Hospital Patients from the district requiring treatment are admitted to either of the following Hospitals :- The Bridgend and District Cottage Hospital, Bridgend Infirmary or the Cardiff Royal Infirmary.

Tuberculosis Hospital A Tuberculosis Clinic established under King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association is situated at Bridgend about six miles from the Borough. Suspected cases are examined at this Clinic and, if necessary, arrangements are made for the admission of the infected persons to one of the various Sanatoria under the control of the Association.

Maternity Hospital When necessary, expectant Mothers are admitted to the Bridgend or Cardiff Infirmaries.

S E C T I O N. C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER. A constant water supply is provided for the Borough from the mains of the Mid-Glamorgan Water Board. Samples of the supply were taken at different points in January, March, June and October of the year under review. In addition, one sample was taken from an old well which had been re-opened as a War emergency in case of the Public Main Supply receiving damage through enemy action. The reports of the Public Analyst were in all cases quite satisfactory. Two new houses have been connected to the above supply.

County Public Health Laboratory, The Parade, Cardiff.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES :-

(a) For Infectious Cases :-

The Cowbridge Borough Council contributes towards the Bridgend Isolation Hospital, and the Infectious Diseases Ambulance of this Hospital is available, when necessary, for the removal of Infectious Cases from the district.

(b) For Non-Infectious Cases :-

No Ambulance is available within the District for Non-Infectious and Accident Cases. Whenever an Ambulance is required for these cases, arrangements are made with the St John's Ambulance.

NURSING IN OWN HOME

This service has now been discontinued.

HOSPITAL CENTRES AND CLINICS :-

There are no Hospitals situated within the Borough Proper. The Local Authority contributes towards the Bridgend Isolation Hospital where cases of Infectious Diseases occurs in the area requiring Hospital treatment.

Smallpox The Local Authority also contributes towards the Bridgend Smallpox Hospital.

General Hospital Patients from the district requiring treatment are admitted to either of the following Hospitals :- The Bridgend and Maesteg Cottage Hospital, Bridgend Infirmary or the Cardiff Royal Infirmary.

Tuberculosis Hospital A Tuberculosis Clinic established under King Edward VII Welsh National Memorial Association is situated at Bridgend about six miles from the Borough. Suspected cases are examined at this Clinic and, if necessary, arrangements are made for the admission of the infected persons to one of the various Sanatoria under the control of the Association.

Maternity Hospital When necessary, expectant mothers are admitted to the Bridgend or Cardiff Infirmaries.

S E W E R A G E.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION OF THE AREA.

WATER. A constant water supply is provided for the Borough from the mains of the Mid-Glamorgan Water Board. Supplies of the supply were taken at different points in January, March and October of the year under review. In addition, one samples was taken from an old well which had been re-opened for emergency in case of the Public Main Supply failing through enemy action. The results of the bacteriological tests were in all cases quite satisfactory. Two new boreholes have been connected to the above supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. Four conversions from privy-middens to the water carriage system were carried out during the period under review. Numerous choked drains were effectively released during the year. The drainage system of the Borough is very inadequate. With the exception of the new houses, which are drained to cesspools, and a section of the older houses having been converted to cesspools, and a much older section which connects up with a drain which discharges crude sewerage into the River Thaw, we are still very dependent upon the antiquated Pail and Privy-Midden System.

I may add, that plans have been approved for the building of a new Public Lavatory and Urinal for both sexes. This has been wanted for many years and will certainly be an asset to the Borough.

As in previous reports, I must once more state that the drainage system of the Borough leaves much to be desired being very unsatisfactory and is undoubtedly a potential danger to the Public Health. I must again emphasise the urgent need for substituting the present system by a more modern one.

RIVERS AND STREAMS As previously reported, the crude sewage and slop water from houses in the District is discharged into the River Thaw which flows through the Borough.

CLOSE ACCOMMODATION

W.C.s Connected to Cesspools.	138.
Closets connected to Town Drain	50.
Closets emptying direct to River	5.
Pail Closets	16.
Middens	168.

PUBLIC CLEANSING A local Haulage Contractor holds a Contract with the Local Authority for the twice weekly removal of the house refuse within the area. The refuse is disposed of in an old quarry situated within the area of the Cardiff Rural District Council and about three miles from the Town. As a result of further complaints of the presence of rats, E.E.Edwards Esq., M.Sc., of Cardiff University, acting for the Glamorgan Agricultural Committee, gave a demonstration on the use of Hydrogen cyanide in the form of dust calcium cyanide. This proved very effective. Since this treatment weekly baiting with Arnolds Rat Biscuits has been employed with the result that the nuisance has been abated.

A Sanitary Cart is kept by the Local Authority for the purpose of emptying the contents of the cesspools within the Borough at the owners expense. The contents are disposed of by emptying over agricultural land.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA The Sanitary Inspection of the area is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

SHOPS The Sanitary Inspector holds the appointment of Shops Inspector and periodical inspections are made to ensure that the requirements of the Shops Act 1934, Public Health Act 1936 and Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 which came into

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force on 1st October 1939 are carried out.

SMOKE ABATEMENT There are no large factories situate within the area, neither are there any near the Town in the adjacent District, so that the question of smoke nuisance does not arise.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS The Local Authority has control over one swimming pool which is constructed in the bed of the River Thaw. The flow of water through the pool is continuous and it is periodically emptied and cleansed. During the summer months, a Caretaker is in attendance at the pool and a daily washing of dressing rooms etc., is carried out.

SCHOOLS There are two Schools within the Borough, namely, The Cowbridge Grammar School and Pontfaen Council School.

Cowbridge Grammar School is situated in the centre of the Town. A constant supply of water is laid on and the New Annexe is fitted with modern showers, baths, water closets etc.,

Pontfaen Council School is situated on Broadway and is served with a constant supply of water. The sanitary condition is still antiquated and consists of pail closets (separate for sexes) and two urinals. Provision is made for the regular removal of the pail contents which has to be buried.

S E C T I O N. D. HOUSING.

1. Inspections of dwellinghouses during the year :-

(1)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health of Housing Acts)	98.
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	146.
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.	Nil.
	(b)	Number of inspections for the purpose	Nil.
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	5.
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	9.

2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices.

Number of houses being defective and rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Officers of the Local Authority. 22.

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :-

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.

(1) Numbers of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs. Nil.

(2) Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices. Nil.
(a) By Owners Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners. Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 8.

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices 8.
(a) By owners 8.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil.

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936.

(1) Number of houses in respect of which demolition orders were made. Action Pending.

(2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. do.

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing Orders were made. Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. Nil.

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV - OVERCROWDING.

(a) (1) Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of the year. 3.

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 3.

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 18.

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year. Nil.

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. 1.

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases. 3.

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.

A number of houses were overcrowded during the earlier part of the year under review, due to Cowbridge Borough being scheduledfor the reception of evacuees. However, most of the children have now left for their own areas and the children who are left are billeted in houses where there is ample room for them.

S E C T I O N. E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply There are two Registered milk retailers residing within the Borough. Inspections were frequently made of the Dairies which were always found to be kept in a satisfactory manner. There are no producers of milk in the Borough. There are five Registered milk purveyors residing outside the district who sell milk within the area.

No action was taken during the year under review under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938 with regard to sampling. Most of the milk retailed in the Borough is produced outside the area and since adequate control and supervision is carried out by the Officers of the district concerned, it was considered unnecessary to submit further samples for bacteriological examination.

(b) Meat and Other Foods There is one registered and one licenced slaughterhouse situate in the area. The registered slaughterhouse has not been used for a number of years and since the Centralisation of Slaughterhouses, no animals have been slaughtered within the area and in consequence the licenced slaughter house also not been in use.

The butchers shops situated in the area are periodically inspected and a total of 21 lbs of liver, 50 lbs of bacon and 233 lbs of ox meat were found to be unfit for human consumption during the year under review.

(c) Adulteration The administration of the Foods and Drugs Act 1938 is carried out by the Police.

S E C T I O N. F.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified etc., during the year 1940 :-

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	Nil.		
Scarlet Fever	3	2	-
Diptheria	1	1	-
Enteric Fever	Nil		-
Puerperal Fever	Nil		-
Pneumonia	3	-	-
Dysentery	Nil	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-

Tuberculosis

New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

Age periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory.		Non Resp.		Respiratory.		Non Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year.	Nil.	Nil	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil
1 - 5	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
5 - 15	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
15 - 25	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
25 - 35	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
35 - 45	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
45 - 55	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
55 - 65	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
65 years and over.	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"

Particulars in connection with the administration of the Factory and Workshops Act 1901 and the Factories Act 1937.

1. INSPECTIONS Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

PREMISES	Number of		
	INSPECTIONS.	WRITTEN NOTICES.	OCCUPIERS PROSECUTED.
Factories with mechanical power.	12.	-	-
Factories without mechanical power.	22.	-	-
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out workers premises.	-	-	-
	34	-	-

2. DEFECTS FOUND

PARTICULARS.	NUMBER OF DEFECTS.		Referred to H.M. INSPECTOR.	NUMBER OF OFFENCES IN RESPECT OF WHICH PROSECUTIONS WERE INSTITUTED.
	FOUND	REMEDIED		
Want of Cleanliness.	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature.	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Vent.	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.	-	-	-	-
Sanitary, Conveniences. Insufficient unsuitable or defective.	-	-	-	-
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	-	-	-

Particulars in connection with the administration of the Factory and Workshops Act 1901 and the Factories Act 1920.

INSPECTIONS Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

PREMISES	Number of INSPECTIONS.	WRITTEN NOTICES.	OCCUPIERS PROSECUTED.
Factories with mechanical power.	12.	-	7
Factories without mechanical power.	22.	-	-
Premises under the (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out workers' premises).	-	-	-
	34	-	-

MATERIAL FOUND

PARTICULARS.	NUMBER OF DEFECTS. YOUNG PERSONS.	NUMBER OF DEFECTS. WOMEN.	Referred to H.M. INSPECTOR.	NUMBER OF OFFENCES IN RESPECT OF WHICH PROSECUTIONS WERE INSTITUTED.
Want of Cleanliness.	-	-	-	-
Want of Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Want of reasonable temperature.	-	-	-	-
Want of proper Vent.	-	-	-	-
Want of effective drainage of floors.	-	-	-	-
Want of sufficient Convenences.	-	-	-	-
Other sanitary defects unenumerated.	-	-	-	-
Breaches of Regulations for Bakehouses	-	-	-	-
Other offences	-	-	-	-
TOTALS.	-	-	-	-